



## For Immediate Release

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### **AG FEST AWARDS \$2000 IN THE ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AWARD**

*Three organizations recognized for their outreach efforts*

**Salem, Ore. - April 14, 2020** - Oregon Ag Fest is excited to announce the winners of the eighth annual Oregon Ag Fest Agricultural Education Award. Receiving first place, and \$1,000, is the Lost River FFA Chapter of Merril, Oregon. Members have worked to increase agricultural awareness in their community through collaborating with numerous local events, hatching 120 fertilized chicken eggs in collaboration with local elementary school classrooms, participating in the annual Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Literacy project and coordinating an Agriculture Field Day. Most recently, the Lost River FFA Chapter has begun raising and harvesting steers to provide beef for their school cafeteria in addition to eggs from their hens.

In second place, the Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador Program. Hosted by the Oregon Dairy Women, this program provides personal and professional development to a team of young women who in-turn promote Oregon dairy farming in classrooms and public events throughout the year. Last year, the Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador helped over 10,000 students gain a glimpse into the dairy industry. In third place, the Hermiston Agricultural Literacy Program. Students from the Hermiston FFA Chapter coordinate lessons and activities for students at their local elementary schools. This year, students coordinated an impressive 33 events helping over 4,800 students in their own community learn more about agriculture through fun, hands-on activities.

The purpose of the Ag Fest Agricultural Education Award is to reward student organizations, non-profit organizations, or classrooms that promote and educate Oregonians about agriculture and extend the Oregon Ag Fest mission beyond its annual, two-day, interactive event. "As Oregon Ag Fest celebrates 33 years of growing awareness for the importance of agriculture in our communities, we are proud to continue to support the agricultural education outreach efforts of non-profit and student organizations this year," said Macey Wessels, Oregon Ag Fest Chair. "Oregon Ag Fest is dedicated to educating the public about the importance of agriculture, and we see this award as a way to encourage and support

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student groups and non-profit organizations that have programs and activities aimed to accomplish the same thing,” Wessels added.

### **About Oregon Ag Fest**

Oregon Ag Fest is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) volunteer organization dedicated to educating the public about the importance of agriculture. Visit [www.oragfest.com](http://www.oragfest.com) to learn more about the family oriented event that has been educating Oregonians for over 30 years about where their food and fiber comes from, and helping people experience life on the farm. Over 20,000 people attend Ag Fest annually to touch, taste, and experience the incredible world of Oregon agriculture in a fun-filled, festive environment.

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